

§ 90.683 EA-based SMR system operations.

(a) EA-based licensees authorized in the 816–821/861–866 MHz band pursuant to § 90.681 may construct and operate base stations using any of the base station frequencies identified in their spectrum block anywhere within their authorized EA, provided that:

(1) The EA licensee affords protection, in accordance with § 90.621(b), to all previously authorized co-channel stations that are not associated with another EA license;

(2) The EA licensee complies with any rules and international agreements that restrict use of frequencies identified in their spectrum block, including the provisions of § 90.619 relating to U.S./Canadian and U.S./Mexican border areas;

(3) The EA licensee limits the field strength of its base stations at any location on the border of the EA service area in accordance with § 90.689;

(4) The EA licensee notifies the Commission within 30 days of the completion of the addition, removal, relocation or modification of any of its facilities within the EA. Such notification must be made by submitting an FCC Form 600 and must include the appropriate filing fee, if any; and

(5) For any construction or alteration that would exceed the requirements of § 17.7 of this chapter, licensees must notify the appropriate Regional Office of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA Form 7460–1) and file a request for antenna height clearance and obstruction marking and lighting specifications (FCC Form 854) with the FCC, WTB, Support Services Branch, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

(6) Any additional transmitters placed in operation must not have a significant environmental effect as defined by §§ 1.1301 through 1.1319 of this chapter.

(b) In the event that the authorization for a previously authorized co-channel station within the EA licensee's spectrum block is terminated or revoked, the EA licensee's co-channel obligations to such station will cease upon deletion of the facility from the Commission's official licensing records,

and the EA licensee then will be able to construct and operate without regard to that previous authorization.

§ 90.685 Authorization, construction and implementation of EA licenses.

(a) EA licenses in the 816–821/861–866 MHz band will be issued for a term not to exceed ten years. Additionally, EA licensees generally will be afforded a renewal expectancy only for those stations put into service after August 10, 1996.

(b) EA licensees in the 816–821/861–866 MHz band will be permitted five years to construct their stations. This five-year period will commence with the issuance of the EA-based license and will apply to all of the licensee's stations within the EA spectrum block, including any stations that may have been subject to an earlier construction deadline arising from a pre-existing authorization.

(c) EA licensees in the 816–821/861–866 MHz band must, within three years, construct and place into operation a sufficient number of base stations to provide coverage to at least one-third of the population of its EA-based service area. Further, each EA licensee must provide coverage to at least two-thirds of the population of the EA-based service area within five years.

(d) *Channel use requirement.* In addition to the population coverage requirements described in this section, we will require EA licensees to construct 50 percent of the total channels included in their spectrum block in at least one location in their respective EA-based service area within three years of initial license grant and to retain such channel usage for the remainder of the construction period.

(e) An EA licensee's failure to meet the population coverage requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, will result in forfeiture of the entire EA license. Forfeiture of the EA license, however, would not result in the loss of any constructed facilities authorized to the licensee prior to the date of the commencement of the auction for the EA licenses.

§ 90.687 Special provisions regarding assignments and transfers of authorizations for incumbent SMR licensees in the 816–821/861–866 MHz band.

An SMR licensee initially authorized on any of the channels listed in Table 4A of § 90.617 may transfer or assign its channel(s) to another entity subject to the provisions of §§ 90.153 and 90.609(b). If the proposed transferee or assignee is the EA licensee for the spectrum block to which the channel is allocated, such transfer or assignment presumptively will be deemed to be in the public interest. However, such presumption will be rebuttable.

§ 90.689 Field strength limits.

(a) For purposes of implementing §§ 90.689 through 90.699, predicted 40 dBuV/m contours shall be calculated using Figure 10 of § 73.699 of this chapter with a correction factor of –9 dB, and predicted 22 dBuV/m contours shall be calculated using Figure 10a of § 73.699 of this chapter with a correction factor of –9 dB.

(b) The predicted or measured field strength at any location on the border of the EA-based service area for EA licensees must not exceed 40 dBuV/m unless all bordering EA licensees agree to a higher field strength. In the event that this standard conflicts with the EA licensee's obligation to provide co-channel protection to incumbent licensees pursuant to § 90.621(b), the requirements of § 90.621(b) shall prevail.

§ 90.691 Emission mask requirements for EA-based systems.

(a) Out-of-band emission requirement shall apply only to the "outer" channels included in an EA license and to spectrum adjacent to interior channels used by incumbent licensees. The emission limits are as follows:

(1) For any frequency removed from the EA licensee's frequency block by up to and including 37.5 kHz, the power of any emission shall be attenuated below the transmitter power (P) in watts by at least $116 \log_{10}(f/6.1)$ decibels or $50 + 10 \log_{10}(P)$ decibels or 80 decibels, whichever is the lesser attenuation, where f is the frequency removed from the center of the outer

channel in the block in kilohertz and where f is greater than 12.5 kHz.

(2) For any frequency removed from the EA licensee's frequency block greater than 37.5 kHz, the power of any emission shall be attenuated below the transmitter power (P) in watts by at least $43 + 10 \log_{10}(P)$ decibels or 80 decibels, whichever is the lesser attenuation, where f is the frequency removed from the center of the outer channel in the block in kilohertz and where f is greater than 37.5 kHz.

(b) When an emission outside of the authorized bandwidth causes harmful interference, the Commission may, at its discretion, require greater attenuation than specified in this section.

§ 90.693 Grandfathering provisions for incumbent licensees in spectrum blocks A, B, and C.

(a) These provisions apply to "incumbent licensees", all 800 MHz SMR licensees who obtained licenses or filed applications on or before December 15, 1995. An incumbent licensee's service area shall be defined by its originally-licensed 40 dBu field strength contour and its interference contour shall be defined as its originally-licensed 22 dBu field strength contour. Incumbent licensees are permitted to add, remove or modify transmitter sites within this existing service area without prior notification to the Commission so long as their original 22 dBu field strength contour is not expanded and the station complies with the Commission's short-spacing criteria in §§ 90.621(b)(4) through 90.621(b)(6). The incumbent licensee must, however, notify the Commission within 30 days of the completion of any changes in technical parameters or additional stations constructed through a minor modification of their license. Such notification must be made by submitting an FCC Form 600 and must include the appropriate filing fee, if any. These minor modification applications are not subject to public notice and petition to deny requirements or mutually exclusive applications.

(b) Incumbent licensees operating at multiple sites may, after grant of EA licenses has been completed, exchange